

### Current Status of the Claims

1. (*currently amended*) A system for the sale of consumer goods,  
[wherein] the system [is] **being** designed to provide a customer with a non-  
validated token that represents an article of merchandise, [wherein the] said  
article [is to be] **being** paid for by the customer at a checkout unit when the  
5 **non-validated** token [is] **is** checked by said unit, [the] said checkout unit  
having a device for communicating with an article dispensing device, [and]  
providing the article dispensing device with a first transaction code after the  
article has been paid for, and [a device for] providing the customer with a  
validated token which [bears] **carries** a second transaction code, [wherein  
10 the] said validated token [is to be] **being** used to obtain the purchased article  
from the article dispensing device with the aid of a comparator device within  
the article dispensing device which compares the **second** transaction code on  
the validated token as entered in the comparator device with the **first**  
transaction code which has been communicated by said communication  
15 device, and [delivery of] **said article dispensing device delivering** the  
article when there is a defined code correspondence, [characterised in  
that]  
**wherein the non-validated token is issued by a printer controlled by an  
article token selection panel device that displays articles for which a  
related non-validated token can be printed on activation of the panel,  
wherein the issued non-validated token carries information that is  
related to a unique token number and the article type,  
wherein the unique token number provided on the non-validated token  
constitutes said second transaction code when the token is made into a  
validated token at said checkout unit, and wherein**  
25 **[the validated token bears a transaction code] said unique token number  
when issued by said article token selection panel device is** selected from  
the group consisting of:  
- a serially generated [transaction] code,  
30 - a randomly generated [transaction] code,  
- a pre-determined series of [transaction] codes, and  
- a unique token number generated serially or randomly [by a device  
which provides the non-validated token; and  
that the validated token is the non-validated token provided with the  
35 transaction code through processing in the checkout unit, said device for  
providing the non-validated token is a printer which is controlled by a  
selection panel that displays articles for which a non-validated token can be  
printed on activation thereof].

2. (*currently amended*) A system for the sale of consumer goods,  
[wherein] the system [is] **being** designed to provide a customer with a non-  
validated token that represents an article of merchandise, [~~wherein the~~] said  
article [~~is to be~~] **being** paid for by the customer at a checkout unit when the  
5 **non-validated** token [~~in~~] **is** checked by said unit, [~~the~~] said checkout unit  
having a device for communicating with an article dispensing device, [~~and~~]  
providing the article dispensing device with a first transaction code after the  
article has been paid for, and [~~a device for~~] providing the customer with a  
validated token which [~~bears~~] **carries** a second transaction code, [~~wherein~~  
10 ~~the~~] said validated token [~~is to be~~] **being** used to obtain the purchased article  
from the article dispensing device with the aid of a comparator device within  
the article dispensing device which compares the **second** transaction code on  
the validated token as entered in the comparator device with the **first**  
transaction code which has been communicated by said communication  
15 device, and [~~delivery of~~] **said article dispensing device delivering** the  
article when there is a defined code correspondence, [~~characterised in that~~]  
**wherein the non-validated token is issued by an article token selection**  
**panel device that displays articles for which a related non-validated**  
**token can be issued on activation of the panel,**  
20 **wherein the issued non-validated token carries information that is**  
**related to a unique token number and/ or the article type,**  
**wherein** the validated token **provided by said checkout unit** is a  
[~~substitute~~] token [~~for~~] **which substitutes or supplements** the non-  
validated token, said [~~substitute~~] **validated** token being issued by the  
25 checkout unit from a token dispenser, from a token printer, or from a supply  
of pre-made, non-alterable, reusable, revalidatable and machine-readable  
tokens, **and wherein** the validated token **carries said second** transaction  
code **which is** selected from the group consisting of:  
- a serially generated transaction code,  
30 - a randomly generated transaction code,  
- a pre-determined series of transaction codes, and  
- a unique token number generated serially or randomly by **the article**  
**token selection panel** device which provides such number on the non-  
validated token[; ~~and that the validated token is a substitute token for the~~  
35 ~~non-validated token, said substitute token being issued by the checkout unit~~  
~~from a token dispenser, from a token printer, or from a supply of pre-made,~~  
~~non-alterable, reusable, revalidatable and machine-readable tokens].~~

3. (*currently amended*) A system as disclosed in claim 2,  
[characterised in that] **wherein** said device for providing the non-validated  
token is a printer which is controlled by a selection panel that displays  
articles for which a non-validated token can be printed on activation thereof,  
5 **and wherein the non-validated token carries article type information**  
**selected from the group consisting of : a numerical code, a bar code, an**  
**EAN code, a UPC code, a magnetically readable code, an rf label**  
**readable code, a manually interpretable article identification code,**  
**animation of the article, article name, and article price.**

4. (*canceled*)

5. (*currently amended*) A system as disclosed in claim [4] 1,  
[characterised in that] **wherein** the article type information is selected  
from the group consisting of: a ~~numerical~~ code, a bar code, an EAN code,  
a UPC code, a magnetically readable code, an rf label readable code, **and**  
5 a manually interpretable article identification code.

6. (*currently amended*) A system as disclosed in claim 5,  
[characterised in that] **wherein** the article type information is additionally  
selected from the group consisting of: animation of the article, article  
name[, **and** article price [; ~~a unique token number~~].

7. (*currently amended*) A system as disclosed in claim 1  
[~~characterised in that~~] **wherein** the **second** transaction code [~~provided on~~  
~~the validated token~~] is selected from the group consisting of:  
a numerical code, a bar code, an EAN code, a UPC code, a magnetically  
5 readable code, an rf label readable code, a series of numbers, a series of  
letters, a series of a combination of numbers and letters, at least one row  
of punched holes, a programmable IC chip, **and** a pre-programmed IC  
chip.

8. (*currently amended*) A system as disclosed in claim 1,  
[~~characterised in that~~] **wherein** communication between the checkout unit  
and the article dispensing device is selected from the group consisting of:  
- ultrasound transmission,  
5 - electro-optical transmission,  
- rf transmission,  
- bluetooth transmission  
- wired transmission,  
- transmission via a retailer's or trader's central computer unit, and  
10 general merchandise transaction control unit.

9. (*currently amended*) A system as disclosed in claim 1,  
[~~characterised in that~~] **wherein** the checkout unit comprises or is  
connected to a transaction code encoder device, the checkout unit also  
comprising [~~an article type information~~] **a** scanner device **for scanning**  
5 **the non-validated token**, wherein [~~the~~] said scanner device is for  
communicating [~~said~~] information to the encoder device, the [~~said~~]  
checkout unit communicating with the article dispensing device via said  
token encoder device, wherein the [~~said~~] token encoder device transmits  
said information to a cash register in said checkout unit for processing  
10 during a payment receipt operation, and wherein the [~~said~~] encoder device  
also has a control unit for controlling [~~a printer for the issue of the~~  
~~validated article token, and~~] a device for transmitting said **first**  
**transaction code** communication to the article dispensing device.

10. (*currently amended*) A system as disclosed in claim 1,  
[~~characterised in that~~] **wherein** the **second** transaction code on the  
validated token is entered in the comparator device through machine  
reading of the **second** transaction code, said machine being selected from  
5 the group consisting of:  
- OCR reader,  
- optical scanner for scanning a bar code or an EAN code,  
- an electromagnetic magnetic strip reader,  
- an IC chip reader,  
10 - a punched hole reader, **and**  
- an rf label code reader.

11. (*currently amended*) A system as disclosed in claim 1,  
[characterised in that] **wherein** the article dispensing device has a manually  
operated keypad, keyboard or touch screen for input of a manually readable  
**second** transaction code on the validated token into the comparator unit.

12. (*currently amended*) A system as disclosed in claim 1,  
[characterised in that] **wherein** the first transaction code which is  
communicated to the article dispensing device and the second transaction  
code provided on the validated token are the same codes or codes that are  
5 related to each other, [e.g.,] **and selected from the group consisting of**  
complementary codes, symmetrical codes [or] **and** unsymmetrical codes.

13. (*currently amended*) A system as disclosed in claim 1,  
[characterised in that] **wherein** the selection panel **on the selection panel**  
**device** is a touch screen.

14. (*currently amended*) A system as disclosed in claim 1,  
[characterised in that] **wherein** the validated token is a part of or consists of  
packaging for the article that is to be dispensed.

15. (*currently amended*) A system as disclosed in claim [14] **2**,  
[characterised in that] **wherein the validated token is a part of or**  
**consists of packaging for the article that is to be dispensed and**  
**wherein said second** transaction code on the validated token is on the  
5 processing thereof in the checkout unit applicable to the packaging **or**  
**part thereof**, transmittable to the packaging **or part thereof**, or [is]  
provided by uncovering an area on the packaging **or part thereof** that  
bears the transaction code.

16. (canceled)

17. (currently amended) A system as disclosed in claim 2,  
[characterised in that] **wherein** communication between the checkout unit  
and the article dispensing device is selected from the group consisting of:

- ultrasound transmission,
- 5 - electro-optical transmission,
- rf transmission,
- bluetooth transmission
- wired transmission, transmission via a retailer's or trader's central  
10 computer unit and general merchandise transaction control unit.

18. (currently amended) A system as disclosed in claim 2,  
[characterised in that] **wherein** the checkout unit comprises or is connected  
to a transaction code encoder device, the checkout unit also comprising [an  
article type information] **a scanner device for scanning the non-validated**  
5 **token**, wherein the [said] scanner device is for communicating said  
information to the encoder device, the [said] checkout unit communicating  
with the article dispensing device via said token encoder device, wherein the  
[said] token encoder device transmits said information to a cash register in  
said checkout unit for processing during a payment receipt operation, and  
10 wherein the [said] encoder device also has a control unit for controlling a  
printer for the issue of the validated article token, and a device for  
transmitting said communication **relating to said first transaction code** to  
the article dispensing device.

19. (*currently amended*) A system as disclosed in claim 2,  
[~~characterised in that~~] **wherein** the **second** transaction code on the  
validated token is entered in the comparator device through machine  
reading of the transaction code, said machine being selected from the  
5 group consisting of:

- OCR reader,
- optical scanner for scanning a bar code or an EAN code,
- an electromagnetic magnetic strip reader,
- an IC chip reader,
- 10 - a punched hole reader, **and**
- an rf label code reader.

20. (*currently amended*) A system as disclosed in claim 2,  
[~~characterised in that~~] **wherein** the article dispensing device has a  
manually operated keypad, keyboard or touch screen for input of a  
manually readable transaction code on the validated token into the  
5 comparator unit.

21. (*currently amended*) A system as disclosed in claim 2,  
[~~characterised in that~~] **wherein** the first transaction code which is  
communicated to the article dispensing device and the second transaction  
code provided on the validated token are the same codes or codes that are  
5 related to each other, [e.g.,] **and are selected from the group consisting**  
**of** complementary codes, symmetrical codes [or] **and** unsymmetrical  
codes.



22. (*currently amended*) A system as disclosed in claim 2,  
[characterised in that] **wherein** the article type information is selected  
from the group consisting of: a numerical code, a bar code, an EAN code,  
a UPC code, a magnetically readable code, an rf label readable code, **and**  
5 a manually interpretable article identification code.

23. (*currently amended*) A system as disclosed in claim 2,  
[characterised in that] **wherein** the article type information is additionally  
selected from the group consisting of: animation of the article, article  
name, **and** article price[,a unique token number].

24. (*currently amended*) A system as disclosed in claim 2  
[characterised in that] **wherein** the **second** transaction code [~~provided on~~  
~~the validated token~~] is selected from the group consisting of:  
a numerical code, a bar code, an EAN code, a UPC code, a  
5 magnetically readable code, an rf label readable code, a series of numbers,  
a series of letters, a series of a combination of numbers and letters, at least  
one row of punched holes, a programmable IC chip, **and** a pre-  
programmed IC chip.

25. (*currently amended*) A system as disclosed in claim 2,  
[characterised in that] **wherein** the selection panel **on the selection panel**  
**device** is a touch screen.

26. (*currently amended*) A system as disclosed in claim 2,  
[characterised in that] **wherein** the validated token is a part of or consists of  
packaging for the article that is to be dispensed.

27. (*currently amended*) A system as disclosed in claim 2,  
[characterised in that] **wherein the second** transaction code on the  
validated token is on the processing thereof in the checkout unit  
applicable to the packaging **or part thereof** , transmittable to the  
5 packaging **or part thereof**, or [is] provided by uncovering an area on the  
packaging **or part thereof** that [bears] **carries** the transaction code.

28. (*new*) A system as disclosed in claim 2, wherein the checkout unit  
comprises or is connected to a transaction code encoder device, the checkout  
unit also comprising a scanner device for scanning the non-validated token,  
wherein the scanner device is for communicating information to the encoder  
5 device, said checkout unit communicating with the article dispensing device  
via said token encoder device, wherein said token encoder device transmits  
said information to a cash register in said checkout unit for processing  
during a payment receipt operation, wherein the encoder device is  
cooperative with a token dispenser which provides tokens with said second  
10 transaction code for validation by scanning in the checkout unit, and wherein  
said encoder device controls a device for transmitting said first transaction  
codes to the article dispensing device.